Archdiocesan School Use of Zoom for Home-Based Learning

We remain committed to student safety as we work to provide a wealth of engaging resources for home-based learning. News reports of security breaches of Zoom calls present concern for all, and today we share our commitment to Safe Environment adherence in each of our classrooms. Before we allowed any live video-conferencing to begin, we mandated that all our teachers enact safety settings that would prevent unwanted intrusion, and we stand by those policies today. Since we sent our first requirements to our Archdiocesan teachers, we have been pleased to see that Zoom has continued to tighten its security settings for all users. We continue to evaluate daily the digital platforms at work in our classrooms.

Our teachers have been actively monitoring the following settings to establish more secure Zoom sessions with our students:

- Establishment of a protected Waiting Room where participants must be approved before being granted access to a call
- Elimination of intruders joining via phone call
- Prevention of students idling in the call unattended before a teacher enters the call
- Maintenance of "screensharing" abilities, limiting this to the teacher only

While we continue to monitor and hold Zoom accountable to their commitment to user safety, as New York Attorney General Letitia James has done, most of the call breaches in the news have been the result of students sharing their classroom access information or the host broadcasting this information publicly without proper restrictions in place, not the result of a breakdown of Zoom security. Emphasize the security risk for everyone involved if your students share the call information with an outside source.

Our commitment to the safety of each student remains steadfast, and our vigilance to the best policies and practices to maintain this safety remains resolute. Your collaboration in this effort is crucial, and we are grateful for your continued support of our Catholic school community.

April 20, 2020